

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
/083 W

-----044408 191652Z /43

R 191530Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5490
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, AG, MO, PO, SP, SS
SUBJ: HIGH-LEVEL VISITS FROM SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

1. SUMMARY. WITHIN THE PAST WEEK, GOM WARMLY HOSTED SPANISH FONMIN OREJA AND PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER SOARES. SEMI-OFFICIAL AL-MAGHRIB HIGHLIGHTED ANTI-ALGERIAN ELEMENTS OF THE TALKS, NOTING IBERIAN CONCERN OVER ALGERIAN SUPPORT FOR CANARY ISLANDS AND AZORES LIBERATION MOVEMENT, AND LOCAL PRESS HAS URGED GOM TO USE THE VISITS AS THE BASIS FOR NEW INITIATIVES TO COUNTER INTERNATIONAL MANEUVERS BY ALGERIA.

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2. SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA MET WITH KING HASSAN AND FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA DURING HIS MAY 12-14 VISIT. THE FIRST STOP OF A SIX-NATION AFRICAN TOUR, HIS VISIT WAS DESIGNED TO THANK MOROCCO FOR ITS OPPOSITION TO THE ALGERIA PROPOSAL THAT THE OAU RECOGNIZE THE CANARY ISLANDS LIBERATION MOVEMENT, MPAIAC, AS WELL AS TO GUARANTEE GOM SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE AT THE UPCOMING

KHARTOUM SUMMIT. KEY ISSUES TOUCHED ON DURING THE VISIT INCLUDED:

A. CANARY ISLANDS. OREJA PUBLICLY CHARACTERIZED THE ALGERIAN ATTITUDE ON THE CANARIES AS "AN INTOLERABLE INTERFERENCE IN SPAIN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS" AND EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION FOR MOROCCO'S SUPPORT AT THE TRIPOLI OAU MEETING. SEMI-OFFICIAL AL-MAGHRIB REPORTED THAT OREJA'S DISCUSSION WITH KING HASSAN CENTERED ON ALGERIAN MANEUVERS, WITH OREJA NOTING THAT ALGERIA HAD NOT BEGUN TO PRESSURE SPAIN ON THE CANARIES UNTIL IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE GOS WOULD NOT ADOPT THE ALGERIAN THESIS ON THE WESTERN SAHARA.

B. WESTERN SAHARA. OREJA TOLD THE PRESS THAT SPAIN GAVE UP ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE SAHARA IN FEBRUARY 1976 AND THAT THE ISSUE NOW LIES WITH THE UN. SOURCES IN HIS ENTOURAGE WERE QUOTED BY AL-MAGHRIB AS SAYING THAT AS FAR AS SPAIN IS CONCERNED THE SAHARAN AFFAIR IS CLOSED.

C. BILATERAL RELATIONS. CHARACTERIZING RELATIONS AS "EXCELLENT," OREJA PUBLICLY DESCRIBED MOROCCO AS ONE OF THE THREE AXES OF SPANISH FOREIGN POLICY (ALONG WITH FRANCE AND PORTUGAL). HE ANNOUNCED THAT A MOROCCAN DELEGATION WILL SOON TRAVEL TO MADRID TO IRON OUT "MINOR PROBLEMS" THAT HAVE LASTED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS (A PROBABLE REFERENCE TO COMPENSATION FOR SPANISH PROPERTY NATIONALIZED IN 1973) AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE EXISTING CULTURAL ACCORD WILL SOON BE RENEWED. (THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOM MINISTER OF TOURISM CURRENTLY VISITING SPAIN WAS MEANWHILE RECEIVED BY KING JUAN CARLOS AND WORKED OUT AN AGREEMENT TO FORM A JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION WITH THE LEADER OF SPAIN'S PARLIAMENT.)

3. PORTUGAL'S PRIME MINISTER SOARES STOPPED IN MOROCCO ON HIS RETURN FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST MEETING IN DAKAR. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF HIS MAY 15-17 VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TO ESTABLISH DIALOGUE WITH GOM LEADERS AND TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS. LOCAL PRESS LAUDED PORTUGAL'S DEMOCRATIC EXPERIENCE AND HIGHLY PRAISED SOARES AS A MAN WHO PUT HIS CONCERN FOR DEMOCRACY ABOVE PARTICULARISTIC AND IDEOLOGICAL INTERESTS. TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING THE VISIT INCLUDED:

A. AZORES AND ALGERIA. REPORTING THE SUBSTANCE OF SOARES' MEETING WITH KING HASSAN, AL-MAGHRIB QUOTED SOARES AS STATING THAT PORTUGAL WILL OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO SEPARATE THE AZORES FROM PORTUGAL. HE REPORTEDLY ALSO DEFENDED THE RIGHT OF ALL NATIONS TO TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND WARNED AGAINST BALKANIZATION OF THE REGION. AL-MAGHRIB NOTED THAT PORTUGAL'S CONCERNS OVER ALGERIAN SUPPORT FOR AZORES LIBERATION PARALLELS THE

GOM'S OWN CONCERN IN THE SAHARA.

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B. WESTERN SAHARA. SOARES TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE JUST-
CONCLUDED INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST MEETING IN DAKAR
HAD, IN EFFECT, TAKEN NO POSITION ON THE SAHARA. HE
ADDED THAT PORTUGAL BELIEVES THAT ALL EFFORTS TO SETTLE
THE PROBLEM SHOULD BE HANDLED BY THE UN.

C. BILATERAL AFFAIRS. AL MAGHRIB REPORTED THAT
DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE KING, SOARES WAS PARTICULARLY
INTERESTED IN ENLARGING MARINE COOPERATION IN LIGHT OF
RECENT CREATION OF JOINT MOROCCAN-SPANISH AND MOROCCAN-
SOVIET FISHING COMPANIES. AFTER LATER MEETINGS WITH
PM OSMAN AND FONMIN BOUCETTA, SOARES PUBLICLY STATED THAT A
CONSULAR ACCORD ELIMINATING THE VISA REQUIREMENT AND A
MARITIME AGREEMENT ARE UNDER STUDY. ON HIS DEPARTURE,
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HE SAID THAT A CULTURAL ACCORD WILL BE SIGNED DURING OR BEFORE THE VISIT OF GOM FONMIN BOUCETTA TO PORTUGAL. (NO DATE WAS GIVEN FOR THE VISIT.)

D. PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONS. SOARES AND PSP INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY RUI MATEUS MET WITH FIRST SECRETARY BOUABID AND TOP LEADERS OF THE MOROCCAN SOCIALIST PARTY, THE SOCIALIST UNION OF POPULAR FORCES (USFP). ACCORDING TO USFP DAILY AL MOHARRIR, SOARES INVITED BOUABID TO VISIT PORTUGAL, DELIVERED AN INVITATION FROM THE BUREAU OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE TO ATTEND ITS 1978 CONFERENCE AS AN OBSERVER, AND SUGGESTED THAT A MEETING BE ORGANIZED BETWEEN THE USFP AND THE SPANISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PROBABLY TO TRY TO HARMONIZE RELATIONS STRAINED OVER THE SAHARA ISSUE).V

4. LOCAL PRESS WAS UNIFORMLY OPTIMISTIC OVER THE VISITS. AL-ALAM, THE ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILY OF THE ISTIQLAL PARTY (HEADED BY FONMIN BOUCETTA), ARGUED THAT THE VISITS HAVE PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MOROCCO TO COUNTERACT ALGERIA'S INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN AND URGED THE GOM TO CONTINUE TO MULTIPLY ITS INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS IN ORDER TO GARNER MORE SUPPORT ON THE SAHARA. ANDERSON

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